

State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

May 14, 2003

The Honorable David H. Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby returning without my approval H. 3218, R-76, a Joint Resolution:

DIRECTING THE STATE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD, AFTER OBTAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE HOUSE COMMITTEE AS TO DESIGN AND LOCATION, TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CAPITOL COMPLEX USING STATE FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE AND PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

This veto is based upon my belief that H. 3218, R-76 would appropriate scarce public funds to a purpose that, although very worthwhile, is presented at a time when our state is in its worst budget crisis in decades. In the 2001-02 fiscal year, we experienced a 2.96% reduction in state revenue, and during the current fiscal year state agencies experienced an 8.77% across the board budget cut. If just the law enforcement area is considered, the State Law Enforcement Division is running a deficit of two million dollars and the Department of Corrections is running a deficit of twenty-seven million dollars. State resources are desperately needed at the frontline of law enforcement and corrections.

I support the construction of a Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on the State House grounds to honor South Carolina's officers killed in the line of duty. However, I cannot support beginning construction and diverting \$500,000 of public funds at this particular time due to the current state budget crisis. I would support a resolution to begin construction if this project were funded entirely with private funds.

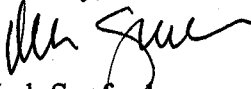
The Honorable David H. Wilkins

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For these reasons, I am returning H. 3218, R-76 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", written over the printed name.

Mark Sanford
Governor